
Robert C. Pohanka, Ph.D.



Director, Hybrid Complex Warfare Sciences Division Expeditionary Warfare & Combating Terrorism Dept Office of Naval Research

Dr. Robert Pohanka is Director of the Hybrid Complex Warfare Sciences Division in the Expeditionary Warfare and Combating Terrorism Department. In this capacity he is responsible for leading and directing the strategy for an integrated program in combating terrorism and irregular warfare. Dr. Pohanka oversees a diverse basic and applied research program in the support of expeditionary maneuver warfare that includes: ISR, C4, Firepower, Maneuver Force Protection, Human Performance, Training, and Logistics. He also serves as the primary source of information on emerging technologies from non-traditional companies, nationally and internationally, in the private sector for application in expeditionary and irregular warfare.

Dr. Pohanka entered the Senior Executive Service in August 1986. He has 37 years of civilian service.

From May 2006—January 2009 Dr. Pohanka served as Director, Defense Venture Catalyst Initiative (DeVenCI). On Assignment from the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Science & Technology) (DoD). Dr. Pohanka developed and implemented the business strategy, organizational strategy and human capital strategy for DeVenCI. He lead and directed the strategy for finding private sector technologies, developed independently of DoD, and transitioned them to DoD Research, Development, and Acquisition.

Dr. Pohanka served from June 2004 –May 2006 as Head of the Engineering, Materials and Physical Sciences Department, Office of Naval Research, which is now the Sea Warfare and Weapons Department. In this capacity, he was responsible for leading and directing the strategy for planning and executing a broad range of Science and Technology investments from basic physics and chemistry at the nanometer scale to engineering solutions for aircraft carriers. During this period, Dr. Pohanka also served ONR as Director for the Materials Science and Technology Division and as Director for the Ship, Hull, Mechanical and Electrical Division. Prior to those assignments, he functioned as Director of the Materials Science and Technology (S&T) Division, a

position he was appointed to in 1993. In this capacity he was responsible for providing the leadership and direction for a full spectrum of Navy and Marine Corps essential materials research - - from basic science through advanced technology for applications in seaborne, airborne, missile and space platforms, as well as shore facilities and sensors. While serving as Division Director, Dr. Pohanka led the *USS Seawolf* investigation for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He also led the development of the strategy for cost reduction for the Future Naval Capability which provided \$3B in savings (cost avoidance). From 1986 to 1993, Dr. Pohanka was the Director of the Materials Division at ONR. In this capacity, he led the development of the strategy for the science base for Navy and Marine Corps essential materials; a \$50million/year program. From 1978-1986 Dr. Pohanka served as Program Manager and Scientific Officer at ONR. In this capacity, he conceived and developed programs on advanced ceramic materials for turbine engines (including the first research on ceramic - ceramic composites), missile windows, and sonar transducers. Dr. Pohanka joined the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in 1972 as a Research Engineer to conduct research on piezoelectric and ferroelectric materials for Navy sonar systems and electro-optical devices. In 1975 Dr. Pohanka became head of the Piezoelectric Materials Section at NRL. During this period, Dr. Pohanka established the science and technology base for the failure of sonar materials and the applications of such failure analysis to fleet problems as well as advanced composite piezoelectric materials.

Dr. Pohanka has bachelor's and master's degree from Michigan Technological University in applied physics. He received his doctorate in solid state science from the Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Pohanka has received the following honors and awards: Office of Secretary of Defense Reliance, 2006; Electroceramic Bridge Building Award, US-Japan 2005; E. F. Osborn Memorial Lecture, 2001; Senior Executive Service Meritorious Executive, 2000; Centennial Fellow The Pennsylvania State University, 1996; SES Performance Awards 1989-2009, and Patent Awards, 1975,77,79,80.

Dr. Pohanka belongs to the following societies: Fellow of the American Ceramic Society; Life Member of the American Physical Society; Member of the IEEE Committee on Ferroelectrics; He also served as Chairman of International Symposia for the American Ceramic Society, IEEE, SPIE; and as Committee Chair and Member of the Frontiers In Science and Society - the Rustum Roy Lecture for the American Ceramic Society ,1996-2004.